

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 04854 052131Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3034

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS KINGSTON 4854

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNESCO, JM

SUBJECT: JAMAICAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON PRESS FREEDOM

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 4808

FOLLOWING IS FROM USIAC MESSAGE (REFTEL) WHICH, INTER ALIA, REPORTS VIEWS OF JAMAICAN FOREIGN MINISTER DUDLEY THOMPSON ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AS VOICED AT NAIROBI DURING THE 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO. BEGIN QUOTE FROM REFTEL: THE DAILY GLEANER. . .RAN A REPORT ON THE FRONT PAGE NOVEMBER 4TH FROM ITS EXECUTIVE EDITOR HECTOR WYNTER (WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE UNESCO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE) FROM NAIROBI ON THE SPEECH OF JAMAICAN FOREIGN MINISTER DUDLEY THOMPSON. HEADLINES: "THOMPSON SPEAKS OF FREEDOM 'MYTHS' "THE REPORT QUOTES THE FOREIGN MINISTER AS SAYING THAT PHRASES "SUCH AS FREEDOM OF THE SEAS AND FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WERE MYTHS"... THAT THE POOR HAD ACCEPTED WITHOUT QUESTION. FREEDOM OF THE SEAS HE CHARACTERIZED, ACCORDING TO WYNTER, AS "THE ABILITY OF THE NAVAL HEGEMONIES TO EXPLOIT TWO-THIRDS OF THE WORLD SURFACE". THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS REMARKS ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, AS REPORTED BY WYNTER, FOLLOWS:

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PAGE 02 KINGST 04854 052131Z

"SENATOR THOMPSON DECLARED THAT FREEDOM OF PRESS SUGGESTS TO MOST PEOPLE THAT THE PRESS MUST BE COMPLETELY FREE FROM ANY FORM OF GOVERNMENT INFLUENCE EVEN TO THE EXTENT WHERE LIBERTY BECOMES LICENCE. THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, UPHELD PRESS FREEDOM BUT NOT IN THAT SENSE. HE SAID THAT FREEDOM OF THE PRESS OFTEN SIGNIFIES ONLY THE ABILITY OF SECTORS OF SOCIETY WITH SUFFICIENT CAPITAL OR POWER TO MONOPOLIZE THE MEDIA. HIS GOVERNMENT FOUND THIS UNACCEPTABLE AS IT DID ON AN ENTIRELY GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS FOR GOVERNMENT WAS ONLY ONE SECTOR, AND IN HIS INTERPRETATION FREEDOM OF THE PRESS CANNOT MEAN THAT ANY SECTOR, PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SHOULD BE ABLE TO MANIPULATE THE MEDIA. A FREE PRESS, HE SAID, MUST REFLECT A BROAD SPECTRUM OF OPINION SO THE MEDIA MUST BE OPENED TO ALL. HE CALLED THIS TRUE FREEDOM. HE THEN CLAIMED THAT THE NON-ALIGNED NEWS AGENCIES POOL PROPOSAL WAS MISINTERPRETED. TO MR. THOMPSON, UNESCO SHOULD REVEAL FACTS ABOUT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY COMPLEX AND THE CONTRAST WITH GREAT POVERTY. HE PRAISED AFRICAN CULTURE AND REFERRED TO JAMAICA'S OWN EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN LITERACY. HE RECEIVED PRAISE FROM A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS ESPECIALLY FROM AFRICA AND THE USSR."

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